

Serial No. 10/761,830  
Atty. Doc. No. 10448-002

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ventilation pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe, comprising:

a tubular sleeve having a sleeve outside diameter smaller than a ventilation pipe inside diameter, said tubular sleeve for receiving a gas from said ventilation pipe;

a hollow head having a head outside diameter larger than said sleeve outside diameter and comprising a plurality of passageways sized to allow egress of the gas from said hollow head and to prevent ingress of animals and debris into said hollow head ; and

a neck portion coupling said hollow head to said tubular sleeve, said neck portion having a transitioning outside diameter from said head outside diameter adjacent said hollow head to said sleeve outside diameter adjacent said tubular sleeve, said neck portion contacting a top opening of said ventilation pipe;

~~whereby said transitioning outside diameter of said neck portion allows for said neck portion to fit to a variety of ventilation pipe openings.~~

wherein at least a portion of said neck portion extends into said top opening of said ventilation pipe;

and wherein said neck portion contacting said top opening and at least a portion of said neck portion extending into said top opening achieves a low tolerance fit to said ventilation pipe.

2. (Currently Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said hollow head comprises a convex shaped end opposite an end of the head attached to the sleeve.

3. (Currently Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said hollow head comprises an apex end opposite an end of said hollow head attached to the sleeve.

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4. (Currently Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said head outside diameter is larger than a ventilation pipe outside diameter.

5. (Currently Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said tubular sleeve comprises a plurality of passageways sized to allow the gas to flow from the ventilation pipe into said tubular sleeve.

6. (Currently Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, further comprising a washer disposed around said tubular sleeve and abutting said hollow head, the washer comprising a washer inside diameter larger than said sleeve outside diameter and smaller than said head outside diameter, and a washer outside diameter larger than a ventilation pipe outside diameter.

7. (Currently Amended) A ventilation pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe, comprising:

a tubular sleeve having a sleeve outside periphery smaller than a ventilation pipe inside periphery, said tubular sleeve for receiving a gas from said ventilation pipe;

a hollow head having a head outside periphery larger than said sleeve outside periphery and comprising a plurality of passageways sized to allow egress of the gas from said hollow head and to prevent ingress of animals and debris into said hollow head; and

a neck portion coupling said hollow head to said tubular sleeve, said neck portion having a transitioning outside periphery from said head outside periphery adjacent said hollow head to said sleeve outside periphery adjacent said tubular sleeve, said neck portion contacting a top opening of said ventilation pipe;

~~whereby said transitioning outside periphery of said neck portion allows for said neck portion to fit to a variety of ventilation pipe openings.~~

wherein at least a portion of said neck portion extends into said top opening of said ventilation pipe;

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and wherein said neck portion contacting said top opening and said at least a portion of the neck portion extending into said top opening achieves a low tolerance fit to said ventilation pipe.